

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

SUBJECT Hauptverwaltung für Ausbildung-
State of Training

DATE DISTR. 10 MAR 50

NO. OF PAGES 4

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The following points were made in addresses delivered by Chef-
inspekteur Borufka, chief of Hauptabteilung Schulung, and
Chefinspekteur Heitsch, Chief of Staff, before a conference
meeting of school commandants, their Polit/Kultur deputies,
training chiefs, Sovietniks and ranking HV officials. They
deal with issues growing out of practical experiences gathered
during the first three training months.

1. The HV has received the reports due at the end of the third training month.
2. In the 3rd training month we began with platoon training. This will be continued in the 4th training month, also.
3. Each student should by now have completed his training as rifleman and squad leader. Actually, this goal has been reached by only a few. Individual and squad leader training are to be improved.
4. Owing to leave, the Volkspolizisten have not been politically indoctrinated the way they should be. We haven't reached that goal and there are other great tasks ahead of us. Our training plans for the 5th, 6th and 7th months will have to make allowance for this. For the 5th training month we require 24 hours, for the 6th 24 hours and for the 7th 30 hours Polit/Kultur training, all told 78 hours. Hauptabteilung Polit/Kultur will furnish the training subjects and direct their systematic execution.
5. Mention is made in the reports of an important event in the third training month - that is the FDJ contest. We were happy to learn from most reports that the FDJ was responsible for our work progressing so well. School leadership should devote the greatest attention to this contest.
6. On 9 December we talked about new recruits being placed in special basic training units so that they could be incorporated in the student body later on. The recruits who were enrolled on 15 November have now advanced to the level of the other students and can be assigned.

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Next Review Date 2008

Approved For Release 2004/08/30 : CIA-RDP82-00457R004400470003-6

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7. The 5th, 6th and 7th months provide for 78 hours Polit/Kultur training. In the 7th month 10 hours are provided for an intermediate test. This test will be based on a questionnaire which the HV will send out in time. One test marked excellent, one satisfactory and one poor will be sent forward to the HV. The intermediate certificates of performance are to be made out in two copies, one to be included in the student's personal file, the other to be kept by the school command. They are not to be shown to the student.
8. All schools have been allotted between 45 and 55 hours for review.
9. Those Objekte that lack instructors for general orientation (Allgemeinbildung), should devote the allotted hours to political training.
10. Sports. In preparation for the later close combat training, combat and courage are to be included.
11. Cartography. There are shortages in maps and compasses.
12. Reading the report on the 3rd training month, one reaches the following conclusion: there is a trend toward compartmentalization. The company commander feels responsible for his company, but takes small share in the military training. Conversely, the instructor gives his two to three hours instruction. He does not concern himself with the companies and this ends the case as far as he is concerned. The Eggesin school has suggested that instructors be attached to the individual companies so as to insure contact with the students. This suggestion has been approved by us.
13. Officers' training programs have been issued to make for uniform and advanced officer training. One day will be set aside. Some schools have proposed to have two afternoons instead. This program applies to all schools. In some schools the training level may already have been reached. Nevertheless they will also have to cover the training subjects.
14. Some Objekte erroneously believe that this program is designed to do away with the necessity for officers to brief themselves before giving instructions. These briefings are necessary because the officers do not yet have sufficient knowledge. On the other hand the officers' knowledge has to be improved. It will not do for the student and officer to be at the same level when the study course is over.
15. Seminars on teaching methods have nothing to do with officers' training. Demands upon officers are considerable. If, however, they wish to do justice to their tasks as instructors in a school, then they should improve their education and not merely stew in their own juice.
16. All written matter concerning officers' training will be sent you by pouch. Care will have to be taken that none of it is taken home.
17. Training in A-Objekte (i.e. infantry) should not go beyond regimental formation, in B- and C-Objekte (i.e. artillery and armored) not beyond the battalion.
18. In some Objekte the military instructors are unable to cope with the amount of work. Why is it necessary, for example, to have the tactics instructor teach a tactical problem? Why not enlist the company and platoon commanders for this purpose, after they have been prepared by the tactics instructor?
19. Officers will have to be trained over and over again, otherwise students will not improve in their training.
20. Some schools have trained assistants to help students in their home work.

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21. Some students have already reached the platoon leaders' level. In order to test the student's knowledge it is necessary to present him with more important tasks.
22. 479 hours training, 78 of which for Polit/Kultur, have been provided during the 5th, 6th and 7th training months.
23. Training guides have to be prepared by the instructors themselves. Instructions issued by Berlin are not meant to take their place. Also, for the coming two or three months, sufficient training guides will not be issued. All you will get are information sheets (Merkblätter) designed to assist you in preparing training guides.
24. We cannot tolerate members of the Volkspolizei inquiring at public libraries to see whether there are any training guides. This is a serious security violation. We shall ascertain the identity of the officer in Leipzig who did that.
25. We have been able to collect quite a number of training aids, but a large amount cannot be obtained. It is impossible to have all charts printed in a printing shop. They should be made up by the schools themselves.
26. In order to avoid a shortage of training aids because of a lack of paper, wood and colors, 200 Westmark per month will be placed at your disposal.
27. Admission quotas for Kochstedt have been allotted to all Objekte and the HV itself.
28. The new T/O does not provide for a fourth Russian teacher. Some school commanders would be happy if they could get one.

Chefinspekteur Heitsch

29. Reserve hours set aside for review are to be distributed over all training subjects, covering in particular Polit/Kultur training. The best military training is of no avail, if we lack political consciousness.
30. As to the military instructors to be assigned to companies permanently, the decision rests with the school commandant.
31. As you may have learned the Castle Boizenburg has burned down. Investigation disclosed that fire prevention regulations had been filed away and were not known to anybody.
32. A new order has been issued by the HV to the effect that in the matter of private use of official vehicles, school commandants are to be treated on a par with Chefinspektoren. We hope though that this privilege will not be abused.
33. According to the new T/O the HV is sub-divided into five head departments (Hauptabteilungen). In official correspondence only, the respective head department and if that is not known, no department at all should be included. Correspondence addressed to a higher echelon or to the central headquarters passes over the desk of the head of the Objekt.
34. At the last conference a request was made by Hauptabteilung P for each Objekt to submit the names of between 4 and 6 students who already measure up to the standards of a Kommissar so that they could be promoted and transferred. We repeat the request to submit such lists.
35. It is still necessary to increase the staff of the HV. Local patriotism should be avoided and qualified comrades be transferred to more important functions.

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36. A check is to be made to learn whether there are officers with special knowledge in weapons and administration.
37. An obligation to preserve secrecy has again been submitted to the attending officers for their signature. Many of them have signed only reluctantly, because they see in it a lack of confidence. Political and organizational questions are, however, not meant to be passed around, but are only for your information.

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